

The dedication demonstrated by John (JP) Borsheim is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to John (JP) Borsheim for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT BLAIS
FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE AS THE MAYOR OF
LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the longest serving Mayor in the United States, Mayor Robert "Bob" Blais, in his 50th year as Mayor of Lake George, New York. Mayor Blais' remarkable tenure in this position is a testament to the outstanding job he has done for the people of Lake George, as he continues to hold the utmost confidence of the village.

Mayor Blais has dedicated his storied career to serving the community of Lake George in many capacities. Before he was consecutively elected mayor 13 times, he held numerous roles in the community as a village trustee, a volunteer assistant fire chief, and a police officer, earning the appointment to Sergeant. Mayor Blais even completed a brief stint as the village dog warden. In the years since he was first elected to oversee the revitalization of the village in 1971, Mayor Blais has championed initiatives to build and restore village infrastructure, reinvigorate the local economy and tourism industry, and preserve the natural ecosystem of the lake and surrounding areas.

The transformation of Lake George into a popular and internationally-renowned tourism hub can be widely attributed to Mayor Blais' leadership and vision, and his tireless efforts to turn that vision into a reality. Always a friendly face and the first the welcome visitors to the area, Mayor Blais truly embodies the neighborly spirit of the North County. Everyone he meets instantly recognizes him as Lake George's biggest fan, and he does everything in his power to be accessible and responsive to his constituents. Mayor Blais is known for returning every letter sent to him and for taking the time to listen to any and all concerns, hoping to resolve them to the best of his ability.

To this day, Mayor Blais remains steadfast in his dedication of being a conscientious steward of the people and land for which he cares, ensuring that Lake George lives up to its full potential. His accomplished record on public works and his reputation as a "man of the people" serve as an inspiration to all New Yorkers. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his exceptional leadership and his example as a true public servant.

ORLAND PROJECT TRANSFER ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Orland Project Transfer Act" at the request of the Orland Water Users' Association, which operates and maintains this Reclamation project in the northern Sacramento Valley. I thank Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA01) for his support as the bill's original cosponsor.

Our bipartisan bill would transfer ownership of the Orland Project—encompassing the East Park Reservoir (50,900 acre-feet) in Colusa County, the Stony Gorge Reservoir (50,380 acre-feet) in Glenn County, and approximately 17 miles of irrigation canals and laterals—from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to a to-be established local public agency. The title transfer for the Orland Project under our bill mirrors the title transfer process for Reclamation projects established under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9).

The Orland Water Users' Association would be required to first re-incorporate as a local public agency under California state law, such as a water or irrigation district, to assume title to the Orland Project under the bill. Built by the federal government over a century ago, the Orland Project has been operated and maintained locally since 1958 by the Water Users' Association, which repaid its share of the Project's construction costs in 1989. The Water Users' Association believes it is now ready to assume legal ownership of the Orland Project, and I am pleased to work to transfer the Project to full local control.

The "Orland Project Transfer Act" would provide new, dedicated funding to make capital improvements at the Orland Project, at no expense to American taxpayers. First, the bill would allow the local public agency (successor to the Orland Water Users' Association) to keep proceeds from sales of "excess" water from the Project to bring the Stony Gorge and East Park Dams up to the California Department of Water Resources' dam safety standards, which are more stringent than the federal standards Reclamation projects are required to meet. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will only use available funds to satisfy federal dam safety standards. Second, the bill would allow this newly available funding source to be used to address public safety concerns presented by the Project's uncovered irrigation canals in the City of Orland. In 2017, an infant and one of my constituents tragically drowned in the Orland Project's uncovered irrigation canals near a residential development.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with Chairman GRIJALVA (D-AZ) and all members of the House Committee on Natural Resources on this legislative title transfer for the Orland Project in my Congressional district.

RAEYLN PENINGTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud students, Raelyn Penington, Matthew Martinez and Sarah Davis, for earning the Rookie of the Year Award for their creative and unique mobile application (app) as part of the 2021 Congressional App Challenge.

As first-time participants in the challenge, this team from Northglenn High School built an app entitled "Identity Protection" to assist members of the community in preventing identity theft.

The students of Northglenn High School spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding, developed new skills, and further advanced their STEM education. Their perseverance and dedication to this challenge exemplifies the character and determination the faculty instills in the students at the school.

I extend my deepest congratulations to these students for their hard work on this project. I am certain these students will exhibit the same dedication and character in their future accomplishments, and I wish them the best of luck going forward.

HONORING THE DETERMINATION
OF YOUNG CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give praise to one the youngest heroes of the 17th District of Illinois, Mr. Christopher Taylor of Galesburg.

We do not always take time to appreciate and take lessons from those far younger than us, but to everyone here today, I have a lesson to share that I learned from a boy of 8, named Christopher Taylor. Christopher was returning to his home in Galesburg with his mother and sisters, like any other day, when tragedy struck. In –15 degree weather, their family vehicle hit black ice and plunged into 6 feet of snow at the bottom of a ditch so deep they couldn't be seen from the road. Stranded in the middle of nowhere, they climbed out of the car, and realizing they would freeze to death if they did nothing, Christopher donned a blanket from the backseat and set off in the waist-deep snow on a two-mile run to the nearest house. Christopher Taylor's unceasing determination saved his family that day.

When all seemed dark and hopeless, this young man laid everything on the line for the sake of those he cared about. Even if he didn't know it then, he and his family were beginning to experience the first stages of frostbite, every bead of sweat turning into an ice-sharpened needle on his skin, and yet he never gave up. Christopher reminded me that day that what we do for ourselves, dies with us, but what we do for others, lives on forever. The effort he expended to fight for his family made a lasting impact on their world, and he was only a boy of 8. He models so perfectly